

## IMPULSES AND BEHAVIOUR

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by the intrusion of self-consciousness- A hungry man will moderate his appetite if he fears that to his companions it will appear so large as to be vulgar. The impulse to dance may be checked by feelings of self-conscious vanity, or be reinforced by the emotion of love. The virtue of courage may be rooted in self-control; this alone will give us cold-blooded fortitude in the presence of death; but it may also draw strength from self-abandonment, from cruelty or from self-consciousness. The passion of love becomes an enduring emotion when it is strengthened by the social and kindly impulses. The powerful emotions of pugacity and love may arouse very remarkable developments of kindness or of cruelty, of aesthetic or of ethical feeling. Conditions of warfare appear to force into flower the artistic talents of a nation; the noblest productions of Greece, the dramatic glories of the Elizabethan era are illustrations in point. Under the influence of love most men become poets.

Our behaviour upon any occasion will depend upon the impulses which assail us and the impulses which prevail. There may be differences in both of these elements, even when the circumstances that stimulate us are precisely similar. For, in the first place, the impulses that are called up by a sensory impression or a recollection depend very largely upon the impulses to

which we are sub<sup>le</sup>ect at the time : if we  
are under  
the influence of irritation our reason  
may fail to  
control us and a trifling mistake on the  
part of  
another will make us positively hate  
him. We  
have seen, moreover, that certain  
impulses gain or  
lose force with the passage of time :  
love may  
lead a man astray after middle li<sup>fe</sup>. but  
not with  
the blinding authority it exercises over  
the young.  
Secondly, similar impressions do  
not at all